

# Duarte Sequeira

Lily Kemp

Cry me a river

12 November — 20 January 2023

Duarte Sequeira, Seoul

Curated by Despoina Tzanou

Duarte Sequeira is pleased to present *Cry me a River*, the first solo exhibition of London-based artist Lily Kemp in Seoul.

Inspired by the mythology and writing surrounding mermaids, Lily Kemp delves into the various depictions of mermaids from many different cultures. These water figures can be found in numerous texts from many different cultures. More specifically, looking at Chinese tales, they are said to be outstanding craftswomen, good at weaving dragon silk/yarn into thin light silk that remains tough and can enter the water without getting wet.

And when they cry, they cry tears of pearls.

*Cry me a River* presents a new series of seven paintings by Lily Kemp focused on mermaid cries. These tears-turned-into-pearls are highly prized, rarely traded away, often made into gifts for close friends and family, or even gifted to humans who have offered them help.

With an interest in narratives touching on the fluidity of gender and identities, Kemp's paintings explore ideas around change and states of transition, femininity and more recently, intimacy, memory and sense of belonging. Drawing from a range of visual references and written sources, through the process of collage she interweaves figures and images from popular culture alongside found images of landscapes and her own photographs.